



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,740	01/23/2006	Heiko Neumetzler	02316.2289USWO	6226
23552 7590 07/12/2007 MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/565,740	Applicant(s) NEUMETZLER, HEIKO	
	Examiner Hien D. Vu	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature the longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lie parallel to the surface of the printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in the installed state on the printed circuit board in claims 1 and 11 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Art Unit: 2833

2. Claims 1-20 are objected to because in claims 1-10, line 1 it is unclear how the conductor module is for the plurality of printed circuit boards since such feature is not shown in the drawings; also the features "the longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lie parallel to the surface or major surfaces of the printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in the installed state on the printed circuit board" in claims 1 and 11 are unclear since such features are not shown in the drawings.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3,7-11,16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Squitieri (4591225).

Insofar as the claims can be understood, Squitieri, Figs.1-6 shows a conductor connection module 20 for printed circuit boards comprising: a plurality of contact elements 60, and a housing 40 in which the contact elements are arranged, with the contact elements having a first contact area 64 which is in the form of an insulation-displacement terminal contact, and having a second contact area 70 which is in the form of a detachable contact pin, longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lie parallel to the surface of the printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in the installed state on the printed circuit board 76.

As to claim 2, Squitieri shows the contact pins are arranged at right angles to the insulation-displacement terminal contacts.

As to claims 3 and 7, Squitieri shows the housing is an integral plastic housing.

As to claims 8-10, Squitieri shows the housing has a stop surface 84 in order to support the housing on an end surface 80 of the printed circuit board.

As to claims 11 and 16, the claims have substantially similar features as claims 1-3 and 7-10; therefore they are rejected under the similar rationale.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4-6, 12-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squitieri (4591225) in view of Smalley, Jr. et al (6050845) and Sommer et al (6095854).

As to claims 4, 6, 12, Squitieri does not show the housing having fixing pins which are arranged parallel to the contact pins. Smalley, Jr., Figs. 1-3 show a housing 12 having fixing pins 26 which are arranged parallel to contact pins 44. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Squitieri by forming the housing with fixing pins which are arranged parallel to the contact pins, as taught by Smalley, in order to provide proper connection for the connector on the board.

As to claims 5, 13, the claim features have been discussed above.

As to claims 14, 17 and 19, Squitieri shows the housing includes latching tabs 94,96 on opposite faces of the housing, but Squitieri does not show a front panel having an opening, an end of the housing including the insulation-displacement terminals positioned in the opening, the latching tabs latching the housing to the front panel. Sommer, Figs. 9-12 show a front panel 14 having an opening 12, an end of the housing including the insulation-displacement terminals positioned in the opening, latching tabs 22 latching the housing to the front panel. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Squitieri by providing a front panel having an opening, an end of the housing including the insulation-displacement terminals positioned in the opening, the latching tabs latching the housing to the front panel, as taught by Sommer, in order to mount the connector in a panel.

As to claims 15, 18 and 20, the claim features have been discussed above.

8. Champion et al, Minich et al, Yoneyama et al, Doorhy et al and Lin are cited for disclosure of electrical connectors having mounting means.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

HV

7/8/07



HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER